

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (New) A latex turbidimetric immunoassay method for measuring lipoprotein(a), comprising:

- (a) mixing (i) a biological sample, (ii) latex particles, which are coated with anti-lipoprotein(a) antibodies, and (iii) a basic amino acid to produce a mixture, wherein said antibodies and said basic amino acid are present in said mixture in an amount of 0.15 mg/ml or greater and 12% or greater, respectively; and
- (b) observing absorbance or light-scattering variation in said mixture to detect degree of agglutination of said particles,

whereby said variation is a function independent of lipoprotein(a) phenotype.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the amount of the antibody added is greater than or equal to 0.16 mg/mL in a reaction solution at the time of the antigen-antibody reaction.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the amount of the antibody added is from 0.16 mg/mL inclusive in the reaction solution at the time of the antigen-antibody reaction.

27. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the amount of the basic amino acid added is greater than or equal to 15% by weight in the reaction solution at the time of the antigen-antibody reaction.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the amount of the basic amino acid added is from 15% by weight to 17% by weight inclusive in the reaction solution at the time of the antigen-antibody reaction.

29. (New) The method according to anyone of claim 16, wherein the basic amino acid is arginine.

30. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the lipoprotein(a) is measured on a molecular basis.

31. (New) The method according to claim 24 wherein the antibody is polyclonal antibody.